

What is claimed is:

1. A method for making a lithographic printing master, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 a. providing a printing precursor comprising on a lithographic base an imageable coating, the imageable coating comprising hydrophobic polymer particles,
 - b. imagewise converting the imageable coating with a liquid coalescing agent and
 - c. removing the areas of the imageable coating that have not been imagewise converted using a developer.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the imageable coating further comprises a coalescence inhibitor.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing comprises the steps of
 - a. coating of a layer of imageable medium onto the lithographic base and
 - b. curing the layer to form the imageable coating.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of heating the imagewise converted imageable coating.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed on a lithographic press.
6. The method of claim 3, wherein the method is performed on a lithographic press.
- 30 7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid coalescing agent comprises at least one of a hydrocarbon, an ether, an ester, a glycol, a carbonyl and an alcohol.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the coalescing agent additionally comprises at least one of
- 5 a. an indicator dye,
 b. a surfactant,
 c. a biocide and
 d. a substance capable of modifying the electrical conductivity of the coalescing agent.
- 10 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the developer is an aqueous developer.
- 15 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the aqueous developer is one of
- a. fountain solution and
 b. a liquid comprising tap water.
11. The method of claim 5, wherein the developer is fountain solution.
12. A printing apparatus comprising
- 20 a. an inking means for inking a lithographic printing master,
 b. a means for applying fountain solution to at least one of
 i. a lithographic precursor and
 ii. a litho graphic printing master,
 c. a deposition means capable of imagewise depositing coalescing agent on a lithographic precursor.
- 25 13. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising,
- 30 a. a coating means capable of coating imageable medium onto a lithographic base and
 b. a curing means capable of curing imageable medium that has been coated onto a lithographic base.

14. An apparatus for making a lithographic printing master, the apparatus comprising
 - a. a coating means capable of coating an imageable medium onto a lithographic base,
 - 5 b. a curing means capable of curing the imageable medium that has been coated onto the lithographic base, thereby to form a lithographic precursor, and
 - c. a deposition means capable of imagewise depositing coalescing agent on a lithographic precursor to form an imaged precursor.
- 10 15. The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a means capable of treating the imaged precursor with a developer.
16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the developer is one of
 - a. fountain solution and
 - b. a liquid comprising tap water.